

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain under consideration, claims 20-26 standing as withdrawn from consideration as directed to a nonelected invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to be clearer that a single extruded sheet is cut into lengths and successive cut sheets are loaded into side by side clamping frames.

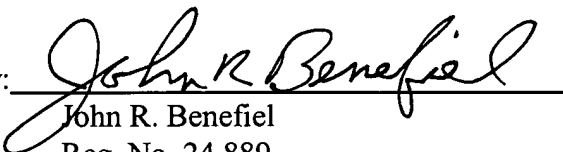
In short, two extended sheets are formed simultaneously. In addition to the high cost of the extruder, this requires the extruders to be run very slowly as the thermoforming process takes a longer cycle time which slow running extruders can be a problem.

By running a single extruder at double speed, equipment costs are reduced, and higher extruder speeds are easily achieved. This is done by using a pair of shuttles, each alternately positioned in alignment with the extruder to receive alternate cut sheets, then loaded side by side into the clamping frames.

Accordingly, it is urged that claims 1-19 distinguish over Shuert and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

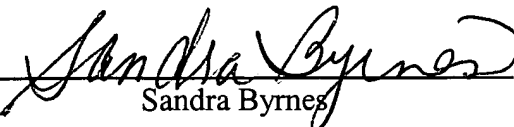
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